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of the *Archives de Psychologie*. The chapters are entitled: Aim and Methods of Psychology, Body and Mind, Consciousness and the Nervous System, Spinal Cord and Brain, Reflex and Cerebral Activity, Instinct and Emotion. The book will prove delightfully stimulating to the advanced student, but we can hardly regard it—at least for this country—as a useful introduction to psychology.

Readings in Philosophy. Compiled by A. E. AVEY. Columbus, Ohio, R. G. ADAMS and Co. 1921. Pp. xii., 683.

Quotations and references, intended for class-room use with Leighton's *Field of Philosophy*. The quotations cover a wide range, from the Old Testament and the early Greeks down to Russell and Royce.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PERIODICALS

Arch. f. d. ges. Psychologie, Bd. xli., Heft 1 u. 2. F. HERMANN. 'Der Einfluss des Kontrastes auf den Sukzessivvergleich innerhalb eines festen Reizsystems bei Augenmassversuchen.' [Experiments on the successive comparison of horizontal lines, undertaken to determine the effect of the group, i. e., of an obscure background-idea, upon the course of judgment; such effect should show itself mainly by way of contrast. The experiments fell into three groups, each one of which comprised a number (15, 9, 10) of complete series, with as many N, whose component stimuli were thrown together by chance. (1) Absolute impression, which already involves a consciousness of difference, bears more heavily upon the first than upon the second R shown; (2) along with the main tendency to form a mean-idea of the whole group goes a tendency to form partial means of (three) sub-groups; and (3) upper deviations from the mean 'normal' idea produce a greater effect than lower deviations, while this idea itself lies lower than the arithmetical mean of the group.] A. MUELLER. 'Beiträge zum Problem der Referenzflächen des Himmels und der Gestirne.' [Reviews some twenty publications that have appeared since the issue of the author's book *Die Referenzflächen des Himmels und der Gestirne* (1918). Not much has been gained; the Göttingen dissertation (1919) of H. Stücklen, however, contains new and valuable ideas. We need further systematic observations, especially observations made on the ocean, and we need a more exact investigation of visual space: several special problems are outlined.] A. KIRSCHMANN. 'Der Metallganz und die Farbe der Metalle.' [The author repeats his view that all lustre depends upon parallax: surface lustre upon binocular parallax and the parallax of movement, metallic lustre on the parallax of indirect vision. He seeks on this basis to answer the two questions why the strong body-colors of metals are always red or yellow, and not green, blue or violet, and why the strong red and yellow have but small coloring-power in alloys. Both of these facts are accounted for by the hypothesis that a metal is composed of highly transparent, probably crystalline 'particles,' with high index of refraction. The possibility of constructing pseudo-metals from thin sheets of mica confirms this theory.] R. BECK. 'Beruht die gegenwärtige Vorstellung des Hochgebirges als schön auf einer Aenderung der menschlichen Ideen von Schönheit?' [High places (Sinai, Olympus, Mount of Olives) were honored in antiquity; but the ancients made roads and journeys for commercial and military reasons, not for pleasure. It is social conditions, not human nature, that has changed.] F. GROSSART. 'Das tachistoskopische Verlesen unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Einflusses von Gefühlen und der Frage des objektiven und subjektiven Typus.' [Experiments with the Wundt tachistoscope. (1) Factors at work during the original process of apperception are mood, familiarity, ideas in preparation, egocentric ideas, subjective form-quality; factors in subsequent readings are feeling, ideas conditioned

by reflection, auditory image, and wrong associations set up in the visual image by the readings. Feeling is of extreme importance for subjective conviction and for the contents of the *Aussage*. (2) For the objective evaluation of important *Aussagen* account must by all means be taken of type. The objective type is passively receptive; the subjective is actively elaborative. The subjective type has, however, two sub-forms, self-activity with criticism and self-activity without criticism; the former may be even more reliable than the objective type. In general, type is of more importance than practice.] G. E. MUELLER. 'Gesellschaft für experimentelle Psychologie.' [Notice of the 7th Congress, Marburg, April 20-23, 1921.]

Zeits. f. Psychologie. Bd. lxxxvii., Heft 5 u. 6. A. PRANDTL. 'Die psychische Leistungsfähigkeit bei wechselnder Disposition.' [Experiments methodically planned to bring out the difference of mental performance in health and in indisposition (consequent on rotatory vertigo) show that the essential condition is intensity of set (*Einstellung*), i.e., of an organisation of the central processes which is directed on distribution of available energies in the sense of a determinate end (*Ziel*), and elimination of useless and actuation of useful reactions. The result throws critical light on studies of fatigue, and permits the 'feelings' of assurance, uncertainty, fatigue, etc., to come to their rights.—These experiments indicate that reproduction suffers but little, impression considerably, from indisposition. Further experiments prove that retentiveness or capacity of repetition also suffers, and thus raise the question whether retentiveness at large may not be more variable than, e.g., James supposed.] H. H. KELLER. 'Experimentelle Beiträge zur Lehre vom Wiedererkennen.' [(1) Experiments with mixed series show that, after a 10 min.-interval, nonsense-syllables are better recognized than monosyllables. After a 24-hr. interval this relation is reversed. (2) The former result indicates that the nonsense-syllables receive a *plus* of attention. Experiments with mixed series of ordinary nonsense-syllables and familiar nonsense-syllables remove this advantage, so that the familiar material now takes the lead in recognition after both intervals. (3) The second result suggests Jost's laws. It is found in fact that in the course of 24 hours a given degree of recognitive familiarity of syllables decreases more slowly if the familiarity is of old standing than if it is more recent (analogue of Jost's second law); and that renewed impression has, as regards later recognition, a greater value for the 'older' than for the 'younger' syllables (analogue of Jost's first law).] I. HERMANN. 'Ueber formale Wahltendenzen.' [Experiments with numerical intervals and spatial series, performed on children and adults, normal and insane subjects, groups and individuals, bring to light two tendencies of choice: the one to choose a limiting, the other to choose the middle member of the series. The former is the more primitive; it implies a set for the stimulus and economy of movement; the latter implies something like form-quality, with realisation of equilibrium, stability of the figure, symmetry.] Literaturbericht. Psychologische Gesellschaft zu Berlin. [A committee, consisting of R. Baerwald, M. Dessoir, A. Moll, has been appointed to investigate clairvoyance, telepathy, telekinesis, materialisation.]